



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL HEALTH CARE NEW ENGLAND
43 SMITH ROAD
NEWPORT RI 02841-1002

IN REPLY REFER TO:

6000

March 1, 2006

Dear TRICARE Provider:

The Naval Health Care New England (NHCNE) team is committed to providing your TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries with timely and quality pharmaceutical care and medication information. In response to a directive from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs, all military pharmacies (including NHCNE) are required to operate an effective, efficient, integrated pharmacy benefits program. In an effort to standardize policies between the many facets of the military health system, NHCNE pharmacies will begin utilizing a preferred medication list or formulary.

Effective June 1, 2006, NHCNE will modify its formulary to include a preferred medication list. Medications are selected for this preferred medication list based upon standard-of-care, therapeutic effectiveness, prescription volume, and economics (cost). The content is determined by both the Department of Defense and the local NHCNE Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committees. NHCNE's preferred medication list will be available on the internet or a hard-copy brochure may be requested and mailed directly to you. To access the internet version, as well as periodic updates, visit the NHCNE web-site located at: <http://nhcne.med.navy.mil/pharmacy/formulary.asp>. Prior to prescribing any medication for your TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries, please refer to our preferred medication list or contact a NHCNE pharmacy to determine if an item is carried.

All beneficiaries affected by the change to our preferred medication list will be provided with one last refill, up to a 90-day supply of the medication. A lesser supply may be provided if directed by their health care provider pursuant to the original prescription. The beneficiary will be provided both oral and written consultation by the pharmacy that the medication will no longer be available and a list of available therapeutic alternatives that you may wish to consider.

If a beneficiary has been referred to you from a NHCNE provider, the pharmacy will make non-formulary medications available to that beneficiary only if they are enrolled to a NHCNE facility (Naval Ambulatory Care Center Groton, Naval Ambulatory Care Center Newport, Naval Branch Health Clinic Brunswick, Naval Branch Health Clinic Portsmouth or Naval Branch Health Clinic Saratoga Springs). There must be a validation of medical necessity for this non-formulary medication, as well as the completion of an appropriate special order request.

Additionally, alternative TRICARE Pharmacy benefit options will exist for those beneficiaries who cannot be converted to a formulary item or if conversion is deemed inappropriate by their health care provider. Upon request, you or your beneficiaries may receive information outlining these alternative pharmacy benefits options; the TRICARE Retail Pharmacy network (TRRx) and the TRICARE Mail-Order Pharmacy (TMOP).

Your understanding in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

P. J. GOODIN
Captain, Nurse Corps
United States Navy
Commanding Officer